

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 01974 190923Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /038 W

-----191013 110991 /10

R 181639Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9410

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL IBADAN

AMCONSUL KADUNA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, NI, UK

SUBJECT: FMG WARNS AGAINST "IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS"

REF: LAGOS 1834

1. FMG REACTED WITH UNUSUAL DISPATCH AND FIRMNESS TO SOME OF THE MORE INTEMPERATE REMARKS MADE IN CONNECTION WITH FIRST ANNIVERSARY ASSASSINATION MURTALA MUHAMMED (REFTEL). IN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ISSUED FEBRUARY 17, GOVERNMENT WARNED NIGERIANS TO DESIST FROM MAKING "IRRESPONSIBLE STATEMENTS OR REMARKS CAPABLE OF CAUSING DISAFFECTION AMONG THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY." SUCH ACTIVITY, SAID THE GOVERNMENT, WAS UNPATRIOTIC AND COULD MISLEAD THE PUBLIC. AFFIRMING THAT THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION WOULD CONTINUE UPHOLD THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, THE STATEMENT WENT ON TO CRITICIZE NIGERIANS IN RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS WHO MAKE REMARKS BASED ON FALSEHOODS.

2. WHAT GOT GOVERNMENT'S GOAT, APPARENTLY, WERE REMARKS OF HISTORY LECTURER ABDULLAHI AT BAYERO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, KANO, WHO RAILED AGAINST THE FOREIGN PRESENCE IN NIGERIA AND WAS PARTICULARLY VEHEMENT AGAINST BRITISH (PARA 2, REFTEL).

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GOVERNMENT STATEMENT TOOK PAINS TO DAMPEN ANYONE'S THOUGHT OF REVIVING THE XENOPHOBIC ATMOSPHERE OF LAST SUMMER. IN ITS REJECTION OF ABDULLAHI'S CHARGES, FMG TERMED "MISCHIEVOUS" AND "ILLOGICAL" LECTURER'S EFFORTS DRAW PARALLELS BETWEEN BRITAIN'S DECISION BREAK RELATIONS WITH UGANDA OVER DEATH OF DORAH BLOCH (ENTEBBE) AND FMG(S FAILURE BREAK WITH LONDON OVER MUHAMMED'S MURDER "ESPECIALLY SINCE INVESTIGATION INTO THE

EVENTS HAS NOT REVEALED BRITISH INVOLVEMENT."

3. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST TIME FIRST TIME FMG HAS PUBLICLY
GONE ON RECORD ABSOLVING BRITISH OF COMPLICITY IN LAST YEAR'S
ABORTIVE COUP. HIGH COMMISSION IS, AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED,
VERY PLEASED.
EASUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, CHIEF OF STATE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LAGOS01974
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Expiration:
Film Number: D770060-0007
Format: TEL
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770228/aaaaayke.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8fa17cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3283363
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PINS, PFOR, NI, UK, (MOHAMMED, MURTALA), (ABDULLAHI)
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